

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples for tetrapeptides as caspase inhibitors are DEVD (SEQ ID NO: 1), Ac-DEVD-CHO, Z-Asp-CH₂-DCB, acetyl-Asp-Glu-Val-Asp-fluoromethyl-ketone (Ac-DEVD-FMK), YVAD (SEQ ID NO: 2), acetyl-Tyr-Val-Ala-Asp-chloromethyl-ketone (Ac-YVAD-CMK), z-DEVD-fmk, benzyloxycarbonyl-Asp(OCH₃)-Glu(OCH₃)-Val-Asp(OCH₃)--CH₂-fluoromethyl ketone and z-IETD-fmk.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

A further preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises compounds of general formula R-Lys-X wherein X represents an oligopeptide selected from the group comprising Pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 5-18, wherein X represents an oligopeptide selected from the group comprising Pro, Pro-Thr, Pro-Val, Pro-Ala, Pro-Arg, Pro-Asn, Pro-Asp, Pro-Cys, Pro-Glu, Pro-Gin, Pro-Gly, Pro-His, Pro-Ile, Pro-Leu, Pro-Lys, Pro-Met, Pro-Phe, Pro-Pro, Pro-Ser, Pro-Trp, Pro-Thr-Thr, Pro-Thr-Val, Pro-Thr-Ala, Pro-Thr-Arg, Pro-Thr-Asn, Pro-Thr-Asp, Pro-Thr-Cys, Pro-Thr-Glu, Pro-Thr-Gln, Pro-Thr-Gly, Pro-Thr-His, Pro-Thr-Ile, Pro-Thr-Leu, Pro-Thr-Lys, Pro-Thr-Met, Pro-Thr-Phe, Pro-Thr-Pro, Pro-Thr-Ser, Pro-Thr-Trp, Pro-Val-Thr, Pro-Val-Val, Pro-Val-Ala, Pro-Val-Arg, Pro-Val-Asn, Pro-Val-Asp, Pro-Val-Cys, Pro-Val-Glu, Pro-Val-Gln, Pro-Val-Gly, Pro-Val-His, Pro-Val-Ile, Pro-Val-Leu, Pro-Val-Lys, Pro-Val-Met, Pro-Val-Phe, Pro-Val-Pro, Pro-Val-Ser, and Pro-Val-Trp. Exemplary compounds of general formula R-Lys-X where X represents one of the above oligopeptides include SEQ ID NOS: 8-22, SEQ ID NOS: 28-42, and SEQ ID NOS: 48-64.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Other preferred examples of compounds according to general formula R-Lys-X are selected from the group comprising R-Lys-Pro-X (including SEQ ID NOS: 29-42 and 48-64), R-Lys-Pro-Thr-X (including SEQ ID NOS: 33-37 and 53-57) and R-Lys-Pro-Val-X (including SEQ ID NOS: 38-42, 59-62, and 64).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

One especially preferred compound of general formula R-Lys-X is SYSMEHFRWGKPV (SEQ ID NO: 64). It is also preferred if one amino acid, more preferred if 3 amino acids, still more preferred if 6 amino acids and most preferred if more than 10 amino acids have D-configuration.

Please replace the Sequence Listing with the enclosed sequence listing having 64 SEQ ID NOS.